

1. Purpose and scope of this memorandum

This memorandum summarizes a site survey performed July 5, 2018 to evaluate the condition of ADA mandated access at the Herring Run Park in Pembroke Massachusetts. After a description of the site and site uses, recommended improvements are provided in Section 7, beginning on page 3.

2. Specific site

Herring Run Historical Park is small sparsely developed public area accessed from an at-grade gravel parking area on the northwest site of Route 14.

3. Name and location of site

a. Size and ownership

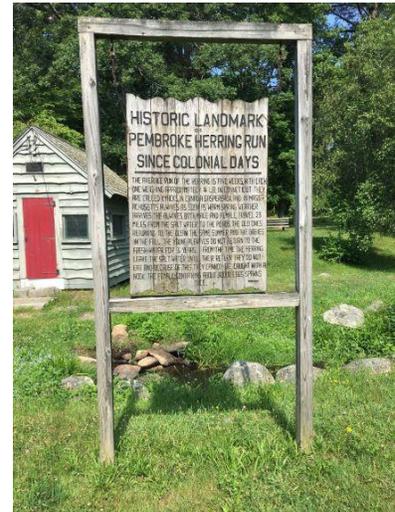
Several parcels of conservation land comprise the Park and surrounding area. The Park occupies 49.57 acres on two parcels, both of which are owned by the Town of Pembroke. The site contains two branches of Herring Brook and lower Little Pudding Brook. Surrounding areas are owned by the Town and the Wildland Conservancy of Plymouth and include large undeveloped parcels containing marsh lands and wooded areas held for land conservation.

4. Existing condition of site

a. Existing Conditions

i. Primary (developed) uses

Herring Run Park contains two historical displays, several picnic tables, a grill, an old mill site and two fish ladders. These areas are set-in grass with scattered trees. There is a small open lawn area to the north of the parking with two granite benches and a historical structure. The remaining section of the park is on the other side of two brooks that eventually converge into one running from the southeast corner to north of the parking area. Access from the parking area to the larger side of the park requires pedestrians to cross two brooks. Passage over the first brook is provide by either a flush concrete bridge with wood rails or a wood deck bridge with two step ups on either side. Both bridges lead to the grassy median between the two brooks. Access over the second brook is provided by another wood deck bridge with two step ups on either side or a gravel path leading over the culvert in the southeast corner of the park.



ii. Secondary (informal) uses

Informal uses are not formally identified but may include picnicking and observing herring in season.

b. Nature of development

Parking for Herring Run Park is provided in an at grade gravel lot of roughly 3,200 square feet and containing space for approximately 20 vehicles. No parking stalls are marked; a single handicapped space is indicated by a sign but with no surface markings. No restroom facilities are provided. No emergency telephone is provided.

c. Surrounding land uses (including linkages to other parks)

Willow Brook Farm Preserve sits to the north of Herring Run Park and Mark Preserve sits to the south. The remainder of the surrounding land consists of mixed residential and agricultural uses.

5. Conditions of site

a. Approach, parking and signage

The park is not well marked from the street. The parking area is not paved and contains no marking of parking spaces. A single sign indicating handicapped parking is in the western end of the parking area near the concrete decked bridge. The pathway to the bridge has a variable slope from 2 to 10 degrees and with a cross-slope of 2 to 5 degrees. The area accessed by the concrete bridge is grass and contains no developed pathway.

The concrete bridge is 10 feet long and is 98 inches wide. It has a slope of 3.5 degrees toward the grassy area and has no cross-slope. The bridge has wooden railings that are 48 inches high.

b. Entrance and access to primary uses

- i. Directional signage to primary uses NONE
- ii. Access to picnic tables, grill, and benches

There are no outdoor recreation access routes (ORAR) with in the entire site. In order for there to be access to the picnic tables, grill and benches, they need to be along a ORAR.



- c. Restroom facilities NONE
- d. Emergency communication equipment NONE
- 6. Barriers that limit access to existing uses
 - a. Description of each barrier and nature of limitation
 - i. Lack of accessible surfacing. In order for a pathway to be considered an ORAR, the surfacing has to be accessible. Acceptable surfacing material include, concrete, asphalt, crushed stone, packed soil and soil stabilizer. The only pathways are informal open lawn, which is not considered an accessible surface.
 - ii. Lack of accessible parking space

7. Short term site improvements

- a. There is currently a sign indicating a “designated accessible route”, but the route is not accessible. The town is required to make this an accessible route because it is designated as one. A short-term solution to this would be to add a stone dust pathway from the parking area to the concrete bridge and from the concrete bridge to the gravel path over the culvert. The stone dust path should extend to the grill area where there is an annual fish fry.
- b. An option for short term improvements to address the accessible parking space would include paving two spaces with room for an isle and add line striping indicating that handicap space. Access from the accessible isle to the ORAR is required.



Long term site improvements

- c. Long term options include extending the ORAR up to the Indian rock, along the woodland edge to meet the brook, then follow the brook past the house and back to the culvert to create a perimeter path that allows access to all amenities. Adding benches with companion seating along the brook/ loop path would enhance the amenities available to all users.

